



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

& SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

FALL 2009 GUIDE



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Fall in the foothills: An end to waiting

High in the Sierra, fall prompts living things to start the long wait beneath winter snow. In the foothills, autumn signals an end to waiting.

Life here has waited all summer. Drought, heat, and the resulting food shortages provoked many species to go dormant. Many plants grew little or not at all. Some animals slept through the season – the summer version of hibernating.

With fall, however, reanimation begins. By late October, Pacific storms usually start to swing through the Sierra. They bestow the mantle of high-country snow that puts so much of life on hold. On the lower elevations, however, the storms confer growth-starting rain.

Along with cooler temperatures, rain inspires activity. Male tarantulas emerge from burrows to rove the landscape for mates. Under rocks, dormant California newts stir. As fall passes, these charming orange salamanders walk about searching for water in which to mate and lay eggs.

Under buckeye trees, which shed their leaves months ago during summer's dry heat, their large brown seeds lie waiting. Once the rains begin, a strong root pushes through each hard husk. Buckeyes sprout by the millions.

As acorns ripen on foothill oaks, some animals begin caching them. Acorn woodpeckers work ceaselessly to store these nuts. Oak trees, fence posts, telephone poles, houses... any wooden surface may be drilled to hold acorns.

Scrub jays use strong beaks to dig holes and push acorns into the ground. Acorns not dug up again for food respond to the rains; by



Beautiful, raucous, hole-drilling, communal food-caching: The foothills acorn woodpecker is at its best in the fall. Photo ©Brent Russell Paull

spring, oak seedlings throughout the foothills will owe their start to forgetful jays.

Fall's acorn crop sustains other foothill species as well: bears, deer, band-tailed pigeons, ground squirrels, dusky-footed wood rats, and raccoons.

The first rains jump-start the grasses. Native bunchgrasses, the few remaining in the foothills, sprout from roots that survive summer droughts. Annual grasses sprout from plentiful seeds.

Evergreen plants, such as live oaks and chaparral shrubs, also respond to rain quickly. Breaking dormancy, they start to grow again.

These food sources, plus cooler temperatures, welcome back species that migrated away from the foothills at summer's start. The species diversity that the foothills boast is especially evident in fall. Cedar waxwings, white-crowned sparrows, and others return from northern breeding grounds where cold and food shortages now rule. Red-breasted nuthatches and golden-crowned kinglets fly down from conifer forests. Mountain quail walk down; these nine-inch-long birds migrate up to twenty miles on foot.

The exception to this burgeoning vitality? The reptiles. Although it rarely snows, the foothills do know frost, which drives snakes and lizards to

their burrows.

Autumn also gives the foothills back to people for easier enjoyment. The midday sun has lost its harsh summer glare. Cool nights are not yet frosty. Occasional rains feel great in a land of drought. Open trails, plentiful wildlife, and less-crowded campgrounds beckon. Days are quiet, but life here is not in retreat — its wait is over.

Get to know Sequoia & Kings Canyon



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT IN THE PARKS

This summer you may start to see the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in action here. ARRA provides funds important, shovel-ready maintenance projects needed by the parks. Five ARRA projects here represent an investment of more than \$11 million in these parks:

- The largest project entails replacing drinking-water tanks and improving fire suppression systems at headquarters. We are replacing a system from the 1930s and 1940s, and adding a generator so that water systems can function during power outages.
- Crystal Cave will get quieter, more energy-efficient lighting via a photovoltaic system rather than the old generator. This benefits cave tours as well as the cave itself.
- Crews will rebuild storm-caused damage on the Kennedy Pass Trail in western Kings Canyon Park, where a severe rainstorm last summer carved a large gully on trail switchbacks. They will also rebuild trail damage from the Tehipite Fire and will clear fallen trees.
- A fifth project involves replacing mandatory compliance-monitoring components of the parks' five wastewater treatment plants and 17 potable water systems.

FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

Most of your entrance and camping fees stay here. The parks invest them in improving visitor facilities and protecting park resources. Fees have paid for repairing and upgrading roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have improved visitor centers, updated exhibits, and modernized naturalist slide programs.

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **7-day pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM):** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **12-Month Pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/GSNM:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **12-Month: America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass:** Cost \$80. Valid for entrance fees at Federal recreation sites including National Parks, National Forests, FWS, BLM, & Bureau of Reclamation. Admits all passengers in a single private non-commercial vehicle where per-vehicle fees are charged, or the passholder plus up to 3 persons (age 16 & older) for per-person fee areas, for 12 months. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Seniors: America the Beautiful Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime pass for entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. (Previously issued Golden Age passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Accessibility: America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park visitor center. (Previously issued Golden Access passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.

WELCOME!

Borrow the park map & guide in Braille at visitor centers.

BIENVENIDOS

Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

BIENVENUE

Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

WILKOMMEN

Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher- zentrum erhältlich.

BENVENUTI

La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

What is the difference between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument?

Each is on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation. Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

National forests, managed for "multiple use, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, as well as recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they strive for maximum protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias.

Parks, forests, and monuments have some different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I..." on the next page to learn what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we get a wide range of benefits from these diverse areas.



PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed.

24-Hour Park Information
1-559-565-3341 (NPS)
www.nps.gov/seki

National Forest Information
1-559-338-2251 (USFS)
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Yosemite Information (NPS)
1-209-372-0200
www.nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions
1-800-427-7623 (Caltrans)

Partners in the Parks

The following groups work together to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as the Sequoia Bark. It is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and printed by Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

National Park Service (NPS)

Malinee Crapsey, Editor
1-559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)
1-559-565-3759

www.sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Parks Foundation
1-559-739-1668

www.sequoiafund.org

U.S. Forest Service (FS)
1-559-784-1500

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)
1-888-252-5757

www.visitsequoia.com

Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)
1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
1-559-565-3171
www.werc.usgs.gov

Page 1 illustrations ©SNHA by Rick Wheeler

Crystal Cave rocks!



Surround yourself with graceful cave formations on a great tour! NPS Photo

No tickets are sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1½ hours before the tour.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see page 12 map). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m) on the road to the cave.

Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a jacket; the ½-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep and it's 50°F (10°C) inside.

No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group reservations and Wild Cave Tours! Tour led by the SNHA: 1-559-565-3759.

Don't miss this opportunity!

45-minute Daily Cave Tours

Through 10/25 (weather permitting): On the hour Saturdays 11am-3pm; Sundays 11am-2pm; weekdays 11am, 1pm, 2pm.

Fees: Age 6-12 \$6; age 13-61 \$11; age 62 & up \$10; under 6 & Golden Access Pass holders free. National Park, Interagency, & Golden Age passes do not apply at the cave. Discount for SNHA members!

Free Activities

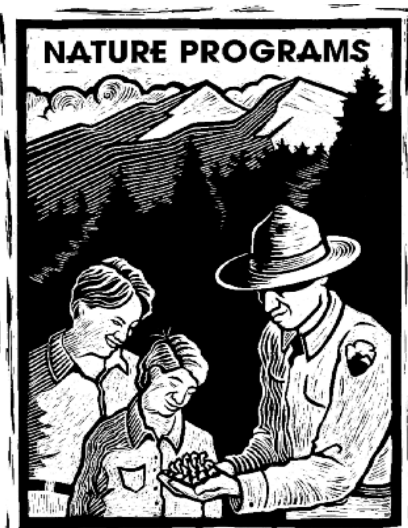
WALKS & TALKS - A few free ranger-led activities may be offered at Giant Forest, Grant Grove, and the Foothills. See pages 8-9, then check bulletin boards and visitor centers for detailed schedules. Once winter snows set in, free guided snowshoe walks will begin in Lodgepole and Grant Grove!

VISITOR CENTERS & PARK STORES - Each offers different exhibits to enjoy. Park stores in each center sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. All your purchases in visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8-9 for details.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM - FREE FOR ALL AGES

Earn a badge while helping to protect resources. If you are 5 to 8 years old, work for the Jay Award. Those 9 to 12 years old earn a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn an Arrowhead Award. Pick up your free Jr. Ranger booklet in any park visitor center and have fun!

TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS! Fun curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th grades in spring and fall: geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date: 1-559-565-4303.



WHERE CAN I ...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest and Monument (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest (see page 2 for details). Know where you are!

• **WALK A PET - In the Parks:** Not on any trails but it's o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, along roads). **In National Forest:** Pets can go on trails. **In both areas:** Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.

• **GO CAMPING - In the Parks:** Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. **In National Forest:** In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

• **DRIVE OFF-ROAD - Not in either area.** Stay on roads.

• **COLLECT THINGS - Not in Parks:** Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. **In National Forest:** Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. **In both areas:** Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.

• **HUNT - Not in the Parks.** Firearms must be unloaded, inoperable and stored in way that prevents ready use prior to entering national parks. **In National Forest:** Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.

• **GO CAMPING - In the Parks:** Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. **In National Forest:** In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

• **SNOWMOBILE - Not in the Parks.** **In National Forest:** Only on designated routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Cherry Gap, & Quail Flat. 1-559-243-4005.

• **GO FISHING - In both areas:**

Permitted during the season; California fishing licenses required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.

• **GO PICNICKING** - See picnic symbols on page 12. Never leave food unattended, due to bears! Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Sandy Cove, Foothills, & Grizzly Falls. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Halstead, Powdercan, Grizzly Falls, Lodgepole, & Crescent Meadow.

• **HAVE A FIRE - In the Parks:** Only in fire grills in some campgrounds and some picnic areas. **In National Forest:** Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves and lanterns. Some areas are more restricted than others. Get permits at Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (in Grant Grove) or USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.

• **CUT WOOD - Not in the Parks.** **In National Forest:** Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit and guidelines: 1-559-338-2251.

• **RIDE A BICYCLE - In the Parks:** On roads only, not on any trail (except the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove).

In National Forest: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. **In both areas:** Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People younger than 18 must wear helmets.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Call first regarding closing dates, hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, & guided trips.

• Cedar Grove

1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

• Grant Grove - closed

1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-594-9307 off season

• Horse Corral

At Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest:
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell

Change: Natural & unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without it, these fuels would feed intense, hard-to-control wildfires. The natural burn pattern includes occasional hot spots. These leave important openings in the forest — the sunny, bare places where sequoia trees regenerate best.

©NPS Photo

Fire: A natural change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 20 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important ecological processes and caused many problems. Two problems were glaring:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: They create a fertile ash seedbed and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, dead wood and small, dense white fir trees increased tremendously. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger blazes that are more dangerous for people, property, plants, and wildlife. They burn hotter and are harder to put out.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works with fire to gain the benefits it brings.

When and where it's appropriate, we may ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning-caused fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

Each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips, and between late May and late September a wilderness camping fee of \$15 is required. The quota and fee are used to help protect your wilderness environment and experience. (They are not required for day hikes, or for overnights in the adjacent Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in US Forest Service. However, a free fire permit is required for any open flame on USFS land.)

A permit is required for each overnight trip. Reserved and first-come, first-served permits are issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the day before at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). If the quota for your preferred trail is full, you can choose another trail for that day or another day to start, if space is available. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date are accepted beginning March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date.

Reserved permits must be picked up either the afternoon before or by 9am on the day of departure. If delayed, call the Wilderness Office or you may lose the reservation.

Camping in the park's "front-country" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

For more details, visit Wilderness Information at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm or call.

HIGH SIERRA LODGE

• **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP**
(DNCR) www.visitsequoia.com
Reservations required:
1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June to mid-September. This tent hotel is at 7800' on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.

Unnatural change: Alien invaders!

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often they keep each other in check. When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly since the competitors, predators and diseases they evolved with in their home communities are not here. They break links in the local web of life, badly disrupting species that depend on each other. Sometimes they completely replace native plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks. The natives will thank you!



STAR THISTLE

Two immediate threats:

Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny patches completely exclude native plants, and limit wildlife movements. Not yet established here! If you recognize it from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in.

New Zealand Mud Snails take over waterways that they invade, eating most of the food. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! They stick on gear; check boots & waders thoroughly for this tiny invader. Common just east of the parks. Could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards: Rocks roll, trees topple, limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. People create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Drowning causes most deaths here. Some victims walking near rivers fell in; others didn't understand river currents.

Park staff work to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings. Ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

DROWNING: Two have drowned so far this year! It is the #1 cause of death in national parks. Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength.

PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

POISON OAK:

Common in the foothills! Red leaves with whitish berries in fall, bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. Ask a ranger to show you. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



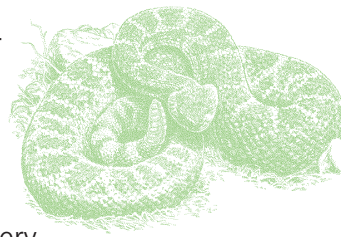
TICKS: Common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



GIARDIA in lakes and streams can cause intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

RATTLESNAKES are especially common in the foothills. Watch where you put your hands and feet! They are protected; do not kill them. Most bites result from teasing or handling. Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



LIGHTNING: If you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

CARBON MONOXIDE: This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent, camper, or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION: See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

CELL PHONES rarely work well in these mountains; don't rely on them. Note where pay telephones are available (see pages 8 & 9) and dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.

COUGARS roam throughout the parks, but chances of seeing one are very small. They rarely attack people and pets, but be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

EXPLORE SAFELY: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Keep your eyes and ears open for potential hazards above and around you. Slow down and share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

SAFE DRINKING WATER:

The parks' 13 water systems are tested to ensure that they meet state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

OPERATION NO-GROW

Prevent illegal marijuana growing! Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

Rules of the road

ROAD DELAYS & ROUGH SURFACES - See page 12.

SLOW DOWN FOR WILDLIFE

Never feed animals along the road! They often get hit by cars if they wait for handouts.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Frequent braking + warm weather can cause overheating and brake failure. Always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder as it slows the car, but it saves the brakes.

AVOID OVERHEATING

Watch the engine temperature gauge. If it starts to go up, especially when going up hill, turn off the air conditioner and turn on the fan. If the engine fails, pull into a paved area, lift the hood, and wait a while. If vapor lock is the problem, this may take care of it.

FINDING GASOLINE

No gas stations lie within park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or in the National Forest at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp 559-335-2000: Year-round 24 hours with credit card. Diesel. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village 1-559-565-3909: Open through 10/12.??? Available 24 hours with credit card. Diesel. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge 1-559-335-2405: Gas sales usually 8am-7pm through mid-November. 5-gallon minimum sale. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180

MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup on roads.

ICY ROAD CONDITIONS

Cold fall temperatures can mean icy areas, especially in the morning and in the shade. If it snows, watch out for plows. Recorded information: 559-565-3341 (press 9, then 4).

NARROW, WINDING ROADS & WINTER CLOSURES

Hwy 180 into Cedar Grove closes at noon 11/12 until April. Panoramic Point & Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/ Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS): Close with snow.

Crystal Cave Road: Closes 10/26 at the latest. Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m).

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road: Closes with snow. No drinking water available on this road.

Mineral King Road: Closes by noon 11/1. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).

South Fork & Middle Fork Roads: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

PREVENT CAR FIRES, PROTECT PLANTS & SOILS, & LET OTHERS PASS

Use paved turnouts only.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternative: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, & wider. If towing a car, park in the foothills and explore by car.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

For a tow: Call 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). Only in Sequoia Park, AAA is available for out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs: Call 565-4070 (24 hours).

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails), single file, with traffic. Wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.



Photo © Brent Russell Paul

Highlights

SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST



Review safety tips on page 5. Take warm clothes, a map, sunglasses, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.

You are on your own in the woods — be safe and enjoy.

GIANT FOREST MUSEUM

The best place to learn about sequoias!

BIG TREES TRAIL

A level, 2/3-mile (1 km) loop with colorful trailside panels describing sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum; parking at the trail is only for cars with placards. 1 hour round trip.

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:

Two trails run to the world's largest tree:

- **Main trail at Upper Sherman** (with a large parking lot that closes with the first snow), runs 1/2 mile down to the tree and has some stairs. It is an uphill walk back to your car. Drive two miles (3.2 km) north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot for those with *disabled* placards only) to Wolverton Road. Turn right, then follow signs.
- **Wheelchair accessible trail at Lower Sherman** has parking for those with *disabled* placards only. If you don't have a placard but can't make the walk down the main trail, ask at any visitor center for a temporary permit. When the upper lot closes for winter, anyone can park here.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

MORO ROCK/CRESCENT MEADOW

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. This road closes with snowfall. Highlights:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain). A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide. Two miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway. Do not climb if steps are icy.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. There is a by-pass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Museum.

CRESCENT MEADOW:

Towering sequoias around a fragile meadow. Stay on designated trails; use only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here. Try the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia, or the High Sierra Trail (71 miles/114 km to Mt. Whitney, at 14,494 feet /4417 m, the highest peak in the lower 48 states).

AUTO LOG: Once you could drive a car onto this fallen giant sequoia, but rot in the log has put an end to the tradition.

NEARBY TRAILS

TOKOPAH FALLS: 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below impressive granite cliffs and a waterfall. Be careful by the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground. For the 500 foot/152 m elevation gain, allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

LITTLE BALDY: Ascends 700 vertical feet (213 m) in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 9 miles (14 km) north of the General Sherman Tree on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.



MINERAL KING

Open late May through October 31 (weather permitting), the winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. From there, trails lead to the High Sierra and excellent — if hilly — hiking. Fall weather can be severe on the passes; ask for a weather report. No gasoline or electricity is available. Starting November 1, the road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Highway 198). See page 8 for more information.

THE FOOTHILLS

The Sierra's lower elevations offer more different kinds of plants and animals than the conifer forests or highcountry. Watch for ticks and poison oak (see page 5 for safety tips).



HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC

AREA: Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here and a very short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always use bear boxes to store food from bears. Only keep food and scented items out when they're in use and within arm's reach.

MARBLE FALLS TRAIL: This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Take the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

PARADISE CREEK: At Buckeye Flat Campground, follow the footpath across from site #26 and the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for 1-1/2 miles (1.6 km) before growing faint.

SOUTH FORK

Park at South Fork Campground at the end of a 13-mile road leaving Highway 198 in Three Rivers.

LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5 km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A relatively steep 5 mile (8.3 km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.

Highlights

KINGS CANYON



BEFORE EXPLORING:
Review safety advice on page 5. You are on your own in the park — be safe!

GRANT GROVE

GENERAL GRANT TREE:

One of the world's largest living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this ½-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

NORTH GROVE LOOP: This lightly traveled, 1½ mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

DEAD GIANT LOOP:

Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1½ mile (2.4 km) round trip.

NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

This steep, narrow road leads to a High-Sierra vista. Go east through visitor-center parking, left around the meadow, right at the sign "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7km)." Walk ¼ mile (.4km) up to viewpoint. Trailers/RVs not recommended. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

BUENA VISTA PEAK:

South of Kings Canyon Overlook on west side of Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) south of Grant Grove. Trail to 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and High Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

REDWOOD CANYON:

Rough dirt road to the world's largest sequoia grove. Acres of rejuvenating forest from 30 years of prescribed fires show the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles/11.3km south of Grant Grove), to Redwood Saddle. Turn right (west) and go 2 miles (3.2km) to parking lot.

BIG BALDY RIDGE: Great views into Red-wood Canyon. Two-mile trail (3.2km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502m). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183m); round trip 4 miles (6.4km).

KINGS CANYON OVER-

LOOK: View northeast to the High Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

REDWOOD MOUNTAIN

OVERLOOK: Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction, it looks west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

THE KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

Hwy 180 to this area closes November 12 at noon. Take time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge. Be very careful around the water!

CANYON VIEW:

The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

KNAPP'S CABIN: During the Roaring '20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

ROARING RIVER FALLS: A shady 5-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village road. Paved, relatively accessible.

ZUMWALT MEADOW: This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, lush meadows, and the winding Kings River. Park at trailhead 4½ miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village road. Purchase a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

ROAD'S END:

Here where the pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km).



TAKE A HIKE!

MIST FALLS: One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End.

DON CECIL TRAIL: The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. It starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs a north-facing slope past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) to good views. Lookout Peak (13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/ 1220 m elevation gain) has a great panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 - 4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2 for *Park or Forest*).

CONVERSE BASIN: Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared (6 miles north of Grant Grove), or the ½-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, a tree cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

INDIAN BASIN: A one-mile accessible trail and one-mile unpaved trail offer a look at how this meadow and forest are recovering after logging a century ago. Take Highway 180, 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins by the host's site.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic, multiple-arch dam, supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger. An easy 2 ½-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT:

A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then Forest Road 13S04.

FACILITIES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6400' (1950m) elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees, it offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 and the map on page 12. See Highlights on page 6.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am-5pm into late October then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are at Lodgepole & Wolverton (don't rely on cell phones).

CRYSTAL CAVE - Through 10/25, weather permitting

One of the park's highlights! See page 3 for details & schedule.

Lodgepole Area

LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

6700' (2040 m) elevation. A few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 & the map on page 12.

INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Available in Lodgepole Visitor Center 7am-3:30pm through 9/26, then self-register outside along the front wall of the visitor center. See page 4 for details. 1-559-565-3766.
- **Visitor Center:** Daily 7am-5pm through 9/26, then 8am-4:30. Stays open as long as Crystal Cave does — 10/25, unless weather closes it sooner — then closes for the season. Crystal Cave tickets sold 8am-4pm. *Bears of Sequoia* movie; exhibits on geology & forest life; books; maps; first aid; wilderness permits. Pay phone. 1-559-565-4436.

FOOD, SHOPS & OTHER SERVICES (DNCPR)

- **Market, Gift Shop:** Daily 9am-6pm through 9/27 then 10am-4:30pm through 10/25 then closed. Groceries, pre-made sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, ice cream, film, souvenirs.
- **Harrison Snack Bar:** Weekends only 9am-6pm through 9/27 then closed.
- **Laundry:** Same as Market hours. Last load in 1 hour before closing. Last day 10/25.
- **Showers:** Daily 9am-1pm & 3-5:30pm through 9/27, then 9am-4pm through 10/25. Closed starting 10/26.
- **U.S. Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678.
- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Year round. Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones:** Outside visitor center & market (poor cell signals).



Foothills Area

500-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. Characterized by chaparral, oaks, river canyons, hot summers and snow-free winters, the foothills offer year-round interest. Park headquarters is here at Ash Mountain.

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 1-559-565-4212.
- **Camping (NPS):** At Potwisha (year-round) & Buckeye Flat (last night open 9/29). Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones** (cell phone signals are usually poor): Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground, Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

Mineral King Area

7800' (2380 m) elevation. A subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (allow 1½ hours to drive; closes 11/1). No RVs, buses, or trailers, please. No electricity or gasoline.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Daily 8am-4pm most days through 9/26 (then self issue permits on porch). Books, maps, first aid, wilderness permits.
- **Pay Telephones:** Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phone signals are extremely poor.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Open late May thru 10/31. Cabins, chalets, showers, small store (gifts, limited supplies, **no gasoline**, no fishing licenses). Restaurant/store: Thursday-Monday 8am-7pm; Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-2pm pie & coffee only. Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; www.silvercityresort.com.
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.

Wuksachi

LODGE & DINING ROOM (DNCPR)

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Year-round center for lodging & food services in Sequoia; 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the Sherman Tree.

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts and the National Park Foundation have made it easy for Wuksachi Lodge guests to contribute to these parks. Ask about the Guest Donation Program when you check in!

- **Dining Room:** Daily 7:30am-9:30pm, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070. Lounge daily 5-8:30pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details. Front desk 24 hours.
- **Pay Telephones:** At main lodge. Cell-phone signals often poor.

FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

At GIANT FOREST, LODGEPOLE, & IN THE FOOTHILLS

Park rangers may offer free walks and talks on weekends. Check local bulletin boards and visitor centers for details.

Once conditions permit, snowshoe walks may be offered at the higher elevations. Stay tuned!

Non-campers are welcome!

FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS

Grant Grove Area

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. This was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here are both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

INFORMATION

- **Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-5pm through 10/24, then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. Local wilderness permits issued up to ½- hour before closing. 1-559-565-4307.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Daily 9am-2pm & 5-7pm (8pm on Friday-Saturday).
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Daily 9am-6pm (7pm on Friday-Saturday). Souvenirs, film, clothing, ATM. Market sells food & other supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, & cans of emergency gasoline.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-11. Lodge front desk 7am-10pm.
- **Showers:** Bath house in Meadow Camp Cabin area 11am-4pm. Pay with quarters.
- **Post Office:** Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30 pm; Saturday 10-noon. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.
- **Stables - Horseback Riding:** Details on page 3. Closed for winter.
- **Pay Telephones:** Available 24 hours at Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); & outside gift shop, market, & post office. They use calling cards only.

In the Kings Canyon

Highway 180 from Kings Canyon Lodge into the canyon closes on Thursday, November 12 at noon, due to regular, heavy rockfall that occurs once it starts to get cold.

CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River.

INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Friday-Sunday 9am-5pm through 9/27 then closed for the season. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. 1-559-565-3793. Closes late September. Pay telephone.
- **Wilderness Permits (NPS):** At Road's End, 6 miles (9.6km) east of the village. Daily 7am-3pm daily through 9/26. No permits issued after 2:45pm. Maps, bear canisters. Self-registration starting 9/27.

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS) - Open through 10/17

- **Restaurant:** Counter-service meals & snack bar; not a full-service restaurant. Weekdays 8-10:30am & 5-7pm; weekends 8am-2pm & 5-7pm. Pay telephone.
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs. Daily 8am-7pm through 10/17. Pay telephone.

OTHER SERVICES - Showers and lodging close 10/18.

- **Camping & Lodging:** See pages 10-11.
- **Showers:** Daily 8am-1pm & 3-6pm.
- **Horseback Riding:** Details on page 3. Closes in fall.

Paying Your Entrance Fee at Kings Canyon in Grant Grove

Through mid-October, pay the required park and forest entrance fee at the Big Stump Entrance Station, located just off Hwy 180 inside the park boundary. Then the kiosk will move to the front of the visitor center in Grant Grove Village. Please stop to purchase or show your pass. One fee is good for visiting *both* parks *and* the forest!

USFS: National Forest & Monument HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders much of the western edge of these National Parks. You are in National Forest when you drive between park areas Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove (see page 2, Parks and Forests). Sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935, it is an excellent place to see sequoias recovering from intensive logging in the late 1800s.

PAY TELEPHONES

Cell-phone signals are usually poor. Calling cards may be required.

- **Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove:** Summer only at Stony Creek Resort & Big Meadows trailhead.
- **Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove:** Hume Lake (year round; see *Hume Lake* below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

INFORMATION

- **USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS):** 35860 E. Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Open 8am-4:30pm weekdays. Maps & books sold. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

LODGING & OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11 for details.
- **Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee):** Open all year. A resort on public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Breakfast 7:30-9am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 5:30-7pm. Cabins, hotel, activities. 1-800-227-9900 or 1-559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Year-round private facilities open to public: 24-hour **laundry** (coin operated) & **gas station** (with credit card). **Market & snack shop.** North of Grant Grove 8 miles (13km) on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles (5km). 1-559-335-2000.
- **Boyden Cavern:** On Highway 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Daily tours on the hour 11am-4pm; closes Gift shop. Ages 14 & up \$13; 3-13 \$6.50; under 3 free. AAA 10% discount. *Senior and Access Interagency Pass discounts do not apply.* Schools & other group reservations: 1-559-338-0959.
- **Stony Creek Village (FS):** On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Last night 10/11; last day of business 10/12. Daily: Market 8am-7pm. Pizza restaurant 2:30-7pm. Showers/laundry. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.

GASOLINE SALES on FOREST LANDS

- At Hume Lake year-round; Stony Creek and Kings Canyon Lodge late spring through early fall. See page 3 for details.

FREE NATURE PROGRAMS Reduced programming in fall. See bulletin boards for details of those being offered. Non-campers welcome!

IN GRANT GROVE:

- **Grant Tree Walks:** 2pm daily through 9/26. Meet at the Grant Tree Trail. Other programs may be offered on October-November weekends & holidays.
- **Evening programs:** Friday-Saturday through 9/26. Join us in the Sunset Campground Amphitheater. Time & topics vary; check locally.
- **Snowshoe walks** begin 12/26, conditions permitting.



IN CEDAR GROVE:

- **Zumwalt Meadow Walk:** Friday-Saturday 2-3:30pm through 9/26. Meet at Zumwalt Meadow parking area for this meander.
- **Evening programs:** Friday-Saturday 7:30pm through 9/26 at the amphitheater near the visitor center. Time & topics vary; check locally.

Staying Overnight

CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the park & you!

NOTE: Rules may vary between the Park and the National Forest. Check page 3 for details.

KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

Required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs from trees. Better yet, bring wood or buy it at a market. Fires must be out cold before you leave.

In National Forest & Monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a Forest Service ranger.

ROADSIDE CAMPING?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument, roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger.

NO HOLDING CAMPSITES

You may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

UP TO 6: Many campgrounds allow only 1 vehicle & 6 people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

7 TO 19: In summer, Crystal Springs (Grant Grove) has first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15. Canyon View in Cedar Grove has sites for 7-19. \$35/site.

LARGER: Call in advance for information on requesting summer group tent-camping sites: For Sunset or Canyon View 1-559-565-4335 (5/1-10/31: 565-3792 for Canyon View). To reserve group sites in Dorst or in national forest/monument: 1-877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

CAMPING TIME LIMITS

14 days between 6/14 & 9/14, with 30 days total per year.

QUIET HOURS & GENERATORS

10pm-6am. Generator use: At Lodgepole & Dorst only 8-11am & 5-8pm; at other campgrounds 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups available.

Dump stations: See page 11 chart.

Trailers permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check chart on page 11. Many sites not suitable for trailers or RVs. Sites may not be level. Vehicles over 30 feet (9 m) long can fit in a small number of sites.

Length advisory: On Generals Highway in Sequoia Park, from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, advised vehicle length limit = 22 feet. See page 5 for other limits & warnings.

PROPANE CANISTERS

Do not put propane or other fuel canisters in park trash cans or leave them in the parks. Take them with you when you leave.

VOLUNTEER AS A HOST

Live in the park, take care of campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about volunteer opportunities; contact Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.



save a bear!

Sales from the Save-a-Bear Kit & color pin (above) directly support bear management. See the pins at visitor centers.

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK

- **Wuksachi Village** (DNCPR)
Reservations: 1-888-252-5757
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070
www.visitsequoia.com. Open all year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6 km).
Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.
- * **Silver City Mountain Resort** *
Summer: 1-559-561-3223
Winter: 1-805-528-2730
www.silvercityresort.com. Open late May to late October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gas.

KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge** (KCPS)
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open all year. In Grant Grove. Hotel all year, cabins (May-Nov.), restaurant, showers, store, gifts.
- **Cedar Grove Lodge** (KCPS)
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Mid-May through October 17. In the Kings Canyon. Motel, public showers, restaurant, laundry, store.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST & MONUMENT

- **Montecito Lake Resort** (formerly Montecito-Sequoia Lodge)
Reservations: 1-800-227-9900
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3388
www.mslodge.com. Open all year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, seasonal & children's activities.
- **Stony Creek Lodge** (KCPS)
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open early May - October 12. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Restaurant, market, showers, gas. Hotel.
- **Big Meadows Cabin** (FS)
1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Open mid-June to mid-October. An historic guard station in the National Monument between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.
- * **Kings Canyon Lodge** (Private*)
Reservations: 1-559-335-2405
Open mid-April to mid-November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove.

* **Note:** The two facilities on private land cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by the National Park or National Forest.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, & services. Check www.nps.gov/seki, click PLAN YOUR VISIT then link to LODGING, or ask at visitor centers.

WILDERNESS LODGE & PERMITS

See page 4.

YOU MUST STORE ALL FOOD!

BEARS quickly learn to get food from cars, picnic tables, and backpacks. They then become destructive and sometimes aggressive. They want our food, not us, but people can get hurt. Too often these bears must be killed. This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly.

• **DRIVERS:** Never leave any food or scented item in cars. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

• **CAMPERS:** Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not food) -- including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, store food in the car trunk (seal food to reduce odors). If the car has no trunk, put everything on the floor, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food.

• **PICKNICKERS:** Guard your food at all times.

• **LODGE GUESTS:** Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

• **BACKPACKERS:** Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets. Bears defeat most attempts to hang food in trees.

• **EVERYONE:** Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks in their direction (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. If a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

Food-storage is required!: Always read & follow instructions on bulletin boards to help save a bear! See other rules on page 10.

*Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole (in Sequoia NP) & for reservable campgrounds (marked * below) in the National Forest (USFS) may be made up to 6 months in advance of the date desired. Contact www.recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777 or TDD 1-877-833-6777 (7am-9pm PST from 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

CAMP GROUNDS

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- "Nearby" - Within 2 miles / 3.2km
- ✓ - Year-round
 - ☀ - Summer only

FOOD STORAGE: Avoid bringing items that won't fit in bear boxes. Symbols on the chart tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in each campground:

- # One small box per site (47" long x 17" deep x 16" high);
- ◆ One large box per site (at least 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high);
- ⊠ A mix of box sizes;
- + Additional boxes available for sites to share.

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

FOOTHILLS AREA Elevation 2100'-3600'. Lowest in elevation, therefore warmest.													
# of sites	Daily Fee	Rest-rooms	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles		
#	\$												
Potwisha: ◆	Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush				✓	☀	✓			
Buckeye Flat: ◆	Last night open 9/29. No trailers or RVs.	28	\$18	Flush				at Potwisha	☀			✓	
South Fork: #	Open. Water (non-potable only).	10	\$12 May -Sept.	Vault								✓	
MINERAL KING AREA Elevation 6650' - 7500'. Area open late May to 11/1. No RVs or trailers.													
Atwell Mill: ◆	Last night 10/31.	21	\$12	Vault	☀	☀			☀			✓	✓
Cold Springs: ⊠	Last night 10/31.	40	\$12	Vault	at Silver City	at Silver City			☀	✓		✓	
LODGEPOLE AREA Elevation 6700'. *Reservable in summer up to 6 months in advance (see Reservations above.)													
*Lodgepole: ⊠ +	Open all year. Reservation period 5/23 through 9/29.	214	\$20/18 \$20 during summer reservation period then \$18.	Flush	☀	☀	☀	☀	✓	☀		✓	✓
*Dorst: ⊠ +	Last night 9/9.	204	\$20	Flush				☀	☀	☀		✓	✓

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

GRANT GROVE AREA Elevation 6500'.													
Azalea: ◆+	Open all year.	110	\$18/10	Flush	✓	☀			✓	at village	☀		✓
Crystal Springs: ◆+	Closed. Sites for groups of 7-15 (see page 10): 14	36	\$18 \$35	Flush	✓	☀			✓	"	☀		✓
Sunset: ◆+	Last night 9/8.	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☀			✓	"	☀		✓
CEDAR GROVE AREA (ON THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON) Elevation 4600'. Area closes November 12 at noon.													
Sentinel: 4600' ◆+	Last night 9/29.	82	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at visitor center	☀	✓	
Sheep Creek: 4600' ◆+	Last night 11/11.	111	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	
Canyon View: 4600' ◆	No RVs or trailers. Last night 10/12. Sites for groups of 7-19	23	\$18 \$35	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	
Moraine: 4600' ◆	Closed.	120	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	"	☀	✓	

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)

HUME LAKE AREA Elevation 4000' - 5900'. *= reservable in summer. Closing dates vary, depend on weather.													
*Princess: Closed for the season.	88	\$17 single	Vault					☀ \$7	☀			✓	✓
Dump station not recommended for vehicles over 30 feet long.													
*Hume Lake: +	No water. Closes 9/27.	74	\$19 "	Flush	✓		✓		☀	✓		✓	
Tenmile: No water. Open until snowfall.	13	\$15	Vault									✓	✓
Landslide: Closes 9/27.	9	\$15	Vault									✓	✓
Convict Flat: No water. Closes 11/12.	5		Vault									✓	
BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS Elevation 6400-7500'. *= reservable in summer.													
*Stony Creek: #	Closes 9/27.	49	\$19 single	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at lodge		✓	✓
Upper Stony: #	Closes 9/27.	18	\$15	Vault	☀	☀	☀		☀	at lodge		✓	✓
Horse Camp: No water. Open until snow.	5+		Vault									✓	
Buck Rock: No water. Open until snow.	11		Vault										
Big Meadow: No water. Open until snow.	40		Vault							by trailhead	✓	✓	

PARK ROADS

- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Lodging
- Horses/riding
- Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

STEEP ROADS:

Grades of 5-8%.
Downshift to avoid
overheated or failed
brakes. See page 5.

DRIVING TIME IN GOOD WEATHER:

FROM FOOTHILLS TO:
Giant Forest - 1 hour.
Lodgepole - 1 hour.
Visalia - 1 hour.
Mineral King - 1-1/2
hour. Road closed
Nov 1 to late May.

FROM GIANT FOREST TO
Grant Grove - 1 hour.

FROM GRANT GROVE TO:
Cedar Grove - 1 hour.
Road closed mid-
Nov to late April.
Fresno - 1-1/2 hours.
Yosemite south entry
via Hwy 41 - 3 hrs.

LIFE ZONES:

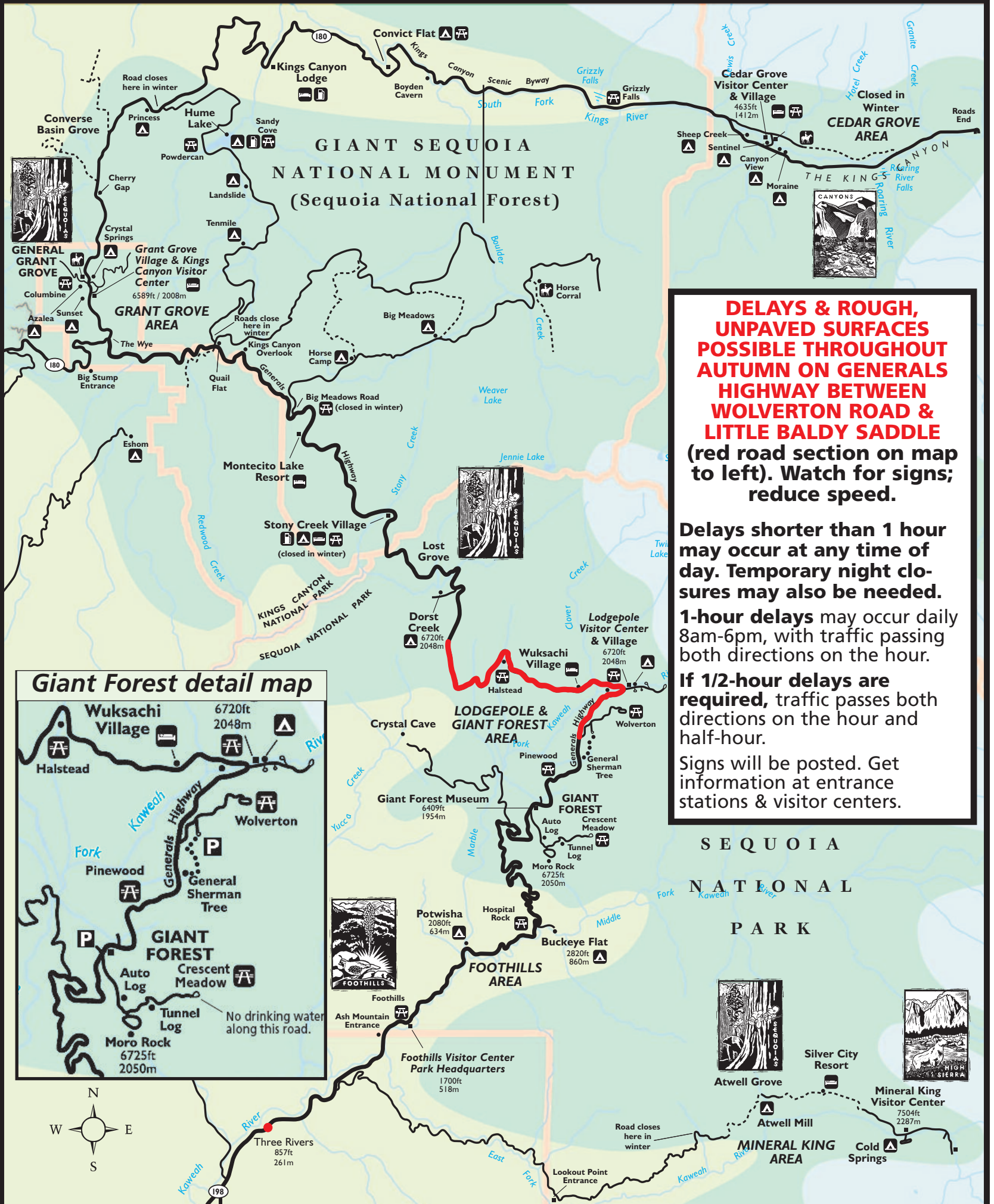
High Sierra -
9,000 to 14,500 feet.

Summer: Warm to chilly
days; nights down to
low 30s. Winter: frigid.

Conifer zone -
5,000 to 9,000 feet.

Summer: Warm days &
cool nights. Winter: deep
snow, cold days.

Foothills zone -
1,500 to 5,000 feet.
Mild, wet winters; hot,
dry summers. Cedar
Grove is cooler than the
foothills, but hotter than
Grant Grove.



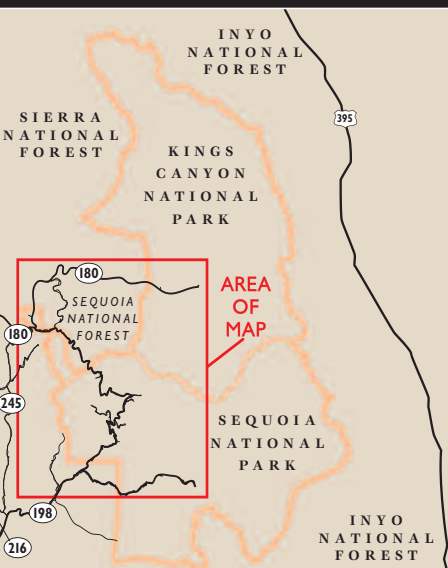
**DELAYS & ROUGH,
UNPAVED SURFACES
POSSIBLE THROUGHOUT
AUTUMN ON GENERALS
HIGHWAY BETWEEN
WOLVERTON ROAD &
LITTLE BALDY SADDLE**
(red road section on map
to left). Watch for signs;
reduce speed.

Delays shorter than 1 hour
may occur at any time of
day. Temporary night clo-
sures may also be needed.

1-hour delays may occur daily
8am-6pm, with traffic passing
both directions on the hour.

If 1/2-hour delays are
required, traffic passes both
directions on the hour and
half-hour.

Signs will be posted. Get
information at entrance
stations & visitor centers.



FALL 2009 SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651

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